

WHAT'S UP, DACH?

February 21, 2003 Issue 29

By Amy Stover, PAO, 286-7954

HOT News

April APFT Dates Set

DACH will conduct its semi-annual Army Physical Fitness Test April 21-25.

It's never too early to start working on that 2-mile run and those pushups and sit-ups.

More information about times and locations will appear via Outlook and the newsletter as the time approaches.

MEDDAC Happenings

DACH Selected for Command Climate Survey

DACH has been selected to participate in the MEDCOM FY03 Command Climate Survey.

Individual responses to the survey are anonymous and individual surveys will not be seen by anyone in this command. Only summarized trends and employees' suggestions will be shared with this organization.

The survey can be found online at <https://medcomig.amedd.army.mil/cmdclimate/index.html>. The password is GPRMC 2003 and the survey takes about 15 minutes to complete.

If you encounter any problems accessing or using the website, contact USAMISSA Customer Support Center at 1-800-438-0855.

The survey must be completed between March 4-14.

Commander's Corner



This is a condensed version of remarks from this week's commander's call.

Darnall Staff,

First of all, I want to thank you for doing what you do every day to make this organization No. 1 in the eyes of the community. We will be seeing difficult times ahead as we lose significant numbers of our active duty providers and ancillary staff in the next few weeks as they prepare to deploy. Once they are deployed, they will probably be gone at least six months. We have requested additional personnel from our higher headquarters, but we don't expect significant backfill personnel for about four weeks.

This means our organization will be stretched to the limit to meet the needs of this community. I need all of us remaining behind to work together as a team to continue to accomplish the mission of this organization. We need to support each other and support those leaving. Our soldiers are going the extra mile for our county and it is imperative that we continue to go the extra mile for our patients.

As soldiers depart Fort Hood, it may be necessary to collapse some of our clinics and services to better meet the needs of the community remaining behind. No one will lose their job or be RIFed from their positions, but some staff members may be required to work in a different area or in a different clinic. Training will be provided to all staff members who will be working in a new area.

We will endure these uncertain times and succeed in meeting our mission by working hard together as one team.

Thank you for working so diligently to make this organization number one.

Donald J. Kasperik

Training Opportunities

HIPAA Training

HIPAA Training is scheduled for Feb. 25 and March 6 at 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. in the hospital auditorium. Each class will last one hour. For more information, please contact Chad Lee at 286-7211.

Mandatory Ethics Training Cancelled

Ethics Training is scheduled for March 4 has been cancelled. The course will be rescheduled for later this month.

For more information, please email Carolyn Williams at Carolyn.Williams@amedd.army.mil.

Officer Professional Development

OPD is scheduled for March 5 from 5-6 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. The topic for this class is Writing NCOER's and Awards, presented by CSM John Reed.

Another OPD class is scheduled for March 6 from 7-8 a.m. in the hospital auditorium. The topic for this class is Smallpox: Implications for Health Care Providers, presented by Col. Wayne Schirner.

Officers must attend one OPD class per quarter.

For more information, please contact the DRETS Education Branch at 286-7332.

Improving Customer Service

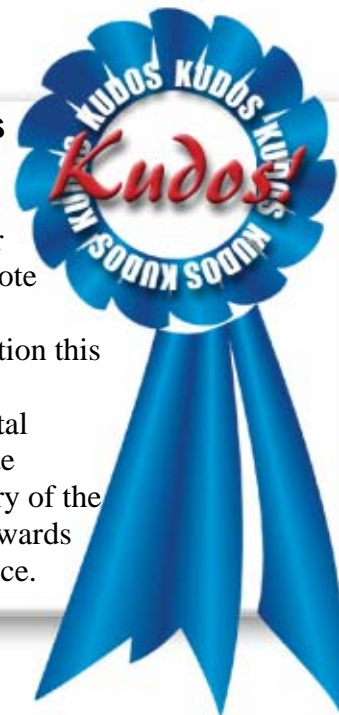
This class is scheduled for March 12 in building 91042 on West Fort Hood. The cost of the class is \$27.50. Class size is limited to 20 participants.

For more info, please call 286-7238.

PAO Staff Earns Awards

Kudos to **Amy Stover**, for winning MEDCOM's Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition for the pregnancy story series she wrote last year. She will now go on to compete at the DA-level competition this summer.

Congrats to **Jim Adcock**, hospital Webmaster. The hospital web site won the most informative category of the Best of TRICARE on the Web Awards at the recent TRICARE Conference.



Mandatory HIPAA Training

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act is a legislative mandate that all hospitals must abide by. There are three main parts to the HIPAA with different deadlines for compliance. The first deadline deals with the HIPAA Privacy Standard, which mandates and legislates that we protect the private health information of our patients and beneficiaries from unauthorized disclosure or access.

HIPAA training is mandatory for all MEDDAC and DENTAC employees (contractor, GS and military). This is a nationwide mandate.

All training must be completed by March 30. There are three ways you can complete the training:

1. You can take the training on HES.
2. You may log onto <http://www.hipaatraining.tricare.osd.mil>. When registering at this site, please pay particular attention to domain section 2.5 and job description section 2.6.
3. You may attend a one-hour class. Please check the Training Opportunities section of the newsletter for the dates of upcoming training.

For more information on HIPAA, please contact Chad Lee, HIPAA Privacy Officer, at 286-7211.

More News

MEDDAC Fundraising Guidance

- ✓ Federal law and regulations strictly prohibit fundraising for charitable organizations and the sale of commercial products on Army installations.
- ✓ All fundraising must be conducted IAW Command Policy Memorandum No. 13. Fundraising may not be conducted unless specifically approved by the hospital commander or his designee, the Adjutant.
- ✓ No fundraising will be approved if the proceeds of the fundraising are not to be used for the direct benefit of MEDDAC personnel and their families.
- ✓ All fundraising activities require prior approval of the hospital commander, or his designee.
- ✓ Fundraising by organizations that have elected to share in the proceeds of the CFC is strictly prohibited, except through the CFC process.
- ✓ Only AAFES or AAFES vendors or concessionaires may engage in the sale of commercial items or products such as toiletries, t-shirts, books, magazines, candy or cookies.

- ✓ Private sales of commercial items by MEDDAC personnel (military, GS and contract) within the work area are prohibited.
- ✓ All approved fundraising events that include outside food sources must have an approved food-handling permit.
- ✓ Only those agencies or activities that have been pre-approved by the hospital will be allowed to distribute food items within the MEDDAC.

References:

- MEDDAC Command Policy Memorandum No. 13, Fundraising Policy
- AR 600-29, Fundraising within the Dept. of the Army
- AR 215-1, Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentalities
- DoD Dir. 5500-7-R, Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Hospital Counsel at 288-8270.

ALSO Course Cancelled

The ALSO Course scheduled for the end of February has been cancelled due to upcoming deployments. The course may be rescheduled for later in the year. If this is possible, information will be sent to participants.

For more information, please contact Barbara Best, Family Practice Residency Program Coordinator at 288-8234.

JCAHO Journal

2003 National Patient Safety Goals

Effective Jan. 2003, all accredited hospitals will be surveyed for implementation of these six goals:

- Improve the accuracy of patient identification
- Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers
- Improve the safety of using high-alert medications
- Eliminate wrong-site, wrong-patient, wrong-procedure surgery
- Improve the safety of using infusion pumps
- Improve the effectiveness of clinical alarm systems

For all but one goal, JCAHO has given two specific recommendations that we must implement. Failure to implement each recommendation (a total of 11) will result in TYPE I findings. Members of the Patient Safety Committee are working on these issues and will get the information back to you during dept/div meetings. Please check with your committee member for more information.